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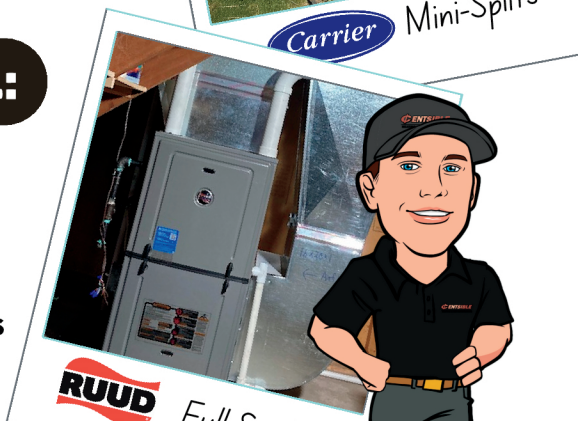
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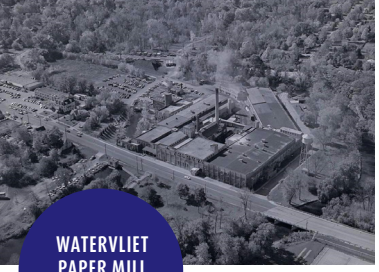
Through the Lens: The Remarkable Life of Photographer Adolph Hann

Adolph Hann was more than a photographer—he was a visual historian whose lens captured the heart and soul of southwestern Michigan. Over a career spanning more than four decades, his work graced the pages of local newspapers such as the Herald-Palladium, Watervliet Record, and Hartford Day Spring. From intimate family milestones to pivotal wartime events, Adolph documented life with an eye for detail and a deep respect for the world around him.

His photography knew no bounds. Whether it was a child's first birthday or the dramatic launch of Naval ships during World War II, Hann approached every assignment with dedication. By the end of his career, he had amassed an extraordinary archive of nearly 10,000 negatives—a lasting tribute to the people, places, and progress of his time.

Among his most celebrated contributions was his pioneering work in aerial photography. At a time when few had the means—or the nerve—to take to the skies, Adolph provided newspapers and private clients with breathtaking aerial perspectives. His images offered more than just novelty; they gave landowners and farmers a new way to see and understand their properties, and brought a unique visual dimension to local storytelling.

Adolph's path to photography was anything but direct. Born in 1911 in Wolhynien, Russia, he immigrated to the United States in 1913 aboard the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse with his parents, Ferdinand and Henrietta Hann. The family settled in Benton Harbor, Michigan, with just $200 to their name. Growing up on a farm near Hartford, Adolph



WATERVLIET PAPER MILL
1959

attended local schools and later worked at the Watervliet Paper Mill as a machine tender. It was during his time there that his passion for photography—and for flight—began to take shape.

That passion would become central to his life. During World War II, Adolph was appointed official Navy photographer for the Dachel-Carter and Truscott boat companies in the Twin Cities. His assignments ranged from detailed ground-level shots to daring aerial photos taken from a bosun's chair, suspended 100 feet above the water. His images served not only as documentation but also as morale boosters—capturing the craftsmanship, teamwork, and resolve that defined the wartime effort.

Never one to shy away from adventure, Adolph earned his pilot's license in his 40s, further expanding his aerial photography capabilities. In 1952, he purchased his own two-passenger Aeronca Chief airplane, though he had previously relied on commercial pilots. With a special waiver from the Civil Aeronautics Commission, he was authorized to fly as low as 500 feet—an essential tool in capturing his signature shots.

In the postwar years, Adolph diversified his career, opening Hann Motor Sales—a garage and gas station on US 12 (Red Arrow Highway) across from Auto Specialties. The business sold cars and tractors, reflecting the economic growth of the time and Hann's entrepreneurial spirit.

Adolph Hann passed away in May 1983, following surgery to repair an aneurysm. Though he had been in declining health, his legacy lives on. His photographs continue to tell the stories of a region in motion, capturing both the everyday and the extraordinary with a quiet reverence and clarity that only a true artist could achieve.

His life and work are preserved thanks to the efforts of the North Berrien County Historical Museum. Visitors can explore this rich legacy at 300 Coloma Avenue in Coloma, Michigan, or online at NorthBerrienHistory.org.

A Leap Day to Remember: The Kowalczyk Family's Barron Lake Legacy

It was Leap Day, 1992, when Mark and Irene Kowalczyk bought a home on Barron Lake—a peaceful retreat for them and their three young children, then ages 6, 4, and just 9 months old.

With three kids in tow, their top priority was finding a getaway no more than two to two-and-a-half hours from their home in Naperville, Illinois.

"These were the days before car televisions, cell phones, and personal laptops became popular," Irene recalled. "You can only play the license plate game, I Spy, Word Genius, or State Capitals for so long."

To help break up the drive, the family often stopped for meals along the way. Irene fondly remembers when their oldest son, Brandon, coined the term slow food. "He would ask, 'Are we stopping for fast food or slow food?'" she said with a laugh.

The Kowalczyks first saw their future lake home in November. Irene remembers asking the seller whether the lake bottom was sandy or muddy. "They could have told us anything—we couldn't exactly check it that time of year," she said. "But true to their word, it turned out to be a wonderful, clean, clear lake. My children used their swimming skills, learned to water ski, fished, and just had fun."

The yard itself became a playground. The family's three large trees doubled as first, second, and third base during countless games of backyard baseball. Their oldest son still loves spending time at the lake. "He fishes early in the morning for bass, northern pike, and bluegill," Irene said. "He and his fiancée love joining in the summer volleyball games our neighbors' family hosts."

Their youngest son, Alexander, has never known life without the lake house. "He felt like the Lawsons, our next-door neighbors for 30 of the 32 years we've been here, were another set of grandparents," Irene shared.

For Mark and Irene, the charm of Barron Lake extends far beyond the water. At the top of their list of favorite things? The people.

"We've enjoyed our neighbors at the lake even more than those at our primary home," Irene said. "There's a sense of camaraderie and community here like nowhere else. Whether it's helping get the boat lifts or

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docks in the water, or gathering around a bonfire to talk into the wee hours, everyone chips in."

She also noted how neighbors always looked out for one another's property—whether a storm blew in, a window was left open, or something was left out in the yard.

In 2011, the Kowalczyks made the decision to tear down the original house and build anew on the same property. "That was the best decision we ever made," Irene said. Over the years, many homes around the lake have seen upgrades, creating a fresh and inviting atmosphere. "Everyone's done such a great job improving their homes and properties. Barron Lake has become an even more desirable place to have a home."

Now, as their children grow into adulthood, Mark and Irene see the lake house as a lasting legacy. "This home will be passed on to our kids as a place where their future families can share precious time together," Irene said. "It's a place built on fun, tradition, and memories that will last a lifetime."

For more Barron Lake News & History please visit their website at BarronLakeAssociation.org.

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New Flooring Trends for 2025

"Stone is making more of a comeback this year, which it hadn't for a while," said Jennifer Smith after attending The Surfaces market in Las Vegas, a major trade show for retail buyers. She was excited to see large-scale stones return, along with fresh options like small mosaics, herringbones, one-inch dots, and unique hexagons. Waterjet-cut designs also stood out with intricate curves and shapes. After more than a decade attending the show, Jennifer noted that stone's resurgence is real.

"One of our distributors is heavily investing in stone, importing a wide variety of colors and sizes from around the world," she said. "They've built an exciting program, and I ordered a 200-item display system that's arriving soon." Most of it—about 85%—is already in stock at their Savannah, Georgia warehouse, helping avoid delays due to tariffs and inspections.

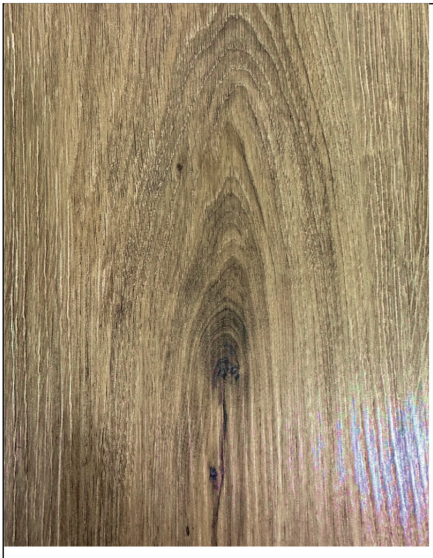
"I've already brought in some beautiful stones for FloorArt," she added. "They're here on pallets and ready to go—like an 8-inch hexagon in a light off-white called Arabesque." Penny Rounds were another trend, and she purchased 1 to 1.25-inch rounds in blue, grey, and beige, along with matching 2-inch hexagons and herringbones. "Pricing was surprisingly good," she noted.

Porcelain tile remains strong, especially for coastal homes where easy cleanup and durability are essential. While nothing matches real stone's depth, porcelain comes close. Brick-look wall tile is still popular, with newer, slimmer sizes like 2x18. The 4x4 square tile in bold colors is trending nationally but hasn't quite landed locally. Blues, greens, terra cottas, and earthy textures continue to be in demand.

Pantone's Color of the Year, mocha mousse, is influencing trends with warmer browns seen as luxe and grounded. Wood-look vinyls are also getting more color to complement these tones. Natural white oak remains a coastal favorite, though thicker vinyls are gaining traction for remodeling convenience.

Larger 24x48 tiles are trending for shower walls, paired with small-format or mosaic tiles on the floor. A standout innovation is 3D Design tile—porcelain with raised veining you can actually feel. "It's not just printed—it casts a slight shadow," Jennifer explained. FloorArt stocks a 3D porcelain called Malahari White, a quartzite-inspired tile with beige striations and a semi-polished lappato finish.

"It's so refreshing to see more color coming back into tile," Jennifer said. "Our market loves blues and greens. It's going to be a fun year for design."



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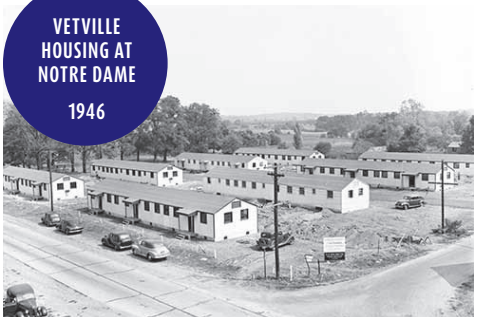
A Demolition with History: Honoring the Past, Building the Future

By Mitchell Outdoor & Design

A few weeks ago, we completed what many might see as a routine demolition project. But for us, it was anything but ordinary. Beneath the surface of this modest lakeside cottage lay a deep-rooted history—woven with sacrifice, resilience, and the unyielding spirit of the American people.

After World War II, countless young veterans returned home with a world of experience—but limited options. Many were still in their early twenties, burdened with the responsibility of supporting new families and adjusting to civilian life, all while lacking formal education or job prospects. Recognizing this need, the University of Notre Dame stepped forward in 1946 with a unique and compassionate solution.



In Weingarten, Missouri, former prisoner-of-war barracks were repurposed and transported to South Bend, Indiana, forming a humble but powerful community known as *Vetville*. These simple wooden structures offered more than shelter—they provided a fresh start. For nearly two decades, Vetville served as a stepping stone for veterans pursuing education, careers, and better futures. Though the community was eventually phased out in 1962 as the university expanded, the legacy of those barracks didn't end there.

That's where our story picks up.

Before the original barracks were demolished, Steve Keresztesi (grandfather of, Jonathan Mitchell) and his best friend Nick Marozsan saw potential in the discarded

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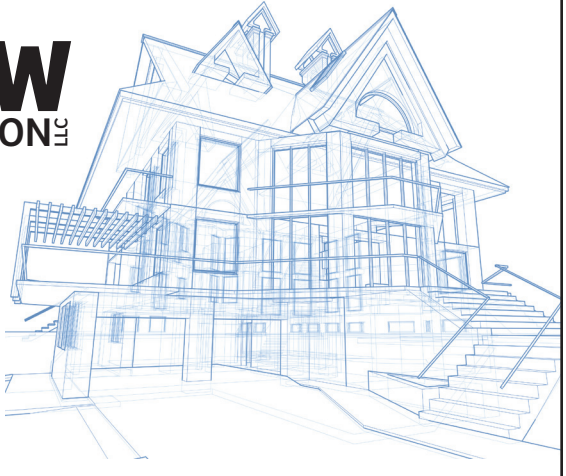

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A Demolition with History *continued from 12*

materials. Nick's father, a Notre Dame groundskeeper, had deep ties to the campus—and together, the friends salvaged the best of the wood and beams. With care and craftsmanship, they transported the materials to Big Crooked Lake, where they built two charming 32x32 cottages. These homes stood not just as vacation retreats, but as living reminders of a rich and often overlooked chapter of American history.

Fast forward to today: the time came to say goodbye to one of those cottages.

We were honored to be chosen for the demolition—not because of the task at hand, but because of what it represented. This wasn't just a building. It was a time capsule of post-war perseverance. A place where families laughed, stories were told, and the echoes of history lived on.

But the story doesn't end there.

As you'll see in the photos, the Marozsan cottage still stands tall. A true testament to the resourcefulness of its builders and the durability of the original materials, it remains a proud symbol of how something old can find new life again—and again.

At Mitchell Outdoor & Design, we don't just move dirt or tear down walls. We honor legacies. We embrace the past as we build toward the future—whether it's through salvaging materials, revitalizing landscapes, or simply taking time to understand the story behind a space.

One cottage may be gone, but its spirit lives on. Just as Vetville was more than just a collection of buildings, these cottages are more than just lakeside getaways—they're milestones in a journey that continues to inspire.

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Glen & Shelly Head

Glen: Tucked away between Dowagiac and Eau Claire, near the shores of Indian Lake, lies a timeless hidden gem that's turning a new page. **Timberline**, a cherished part of the community since 1939, has officially welcomed new owners—though they're far from strangers.

Haley and **Matthew Lowe** recently took the reins of this storied establishment. Matthew was a lifelong patron prior to joining the Timberline staff seven years ago, serving as head chef and part of the management team. The couple is committed to preserving the restaurant's long-standing tradition of quality and warmth.

"We want to keep this unique setting and restaurant alive," Haley shared. "There is so much tradition here with families that have come for generations."

Matthew added, "We make every dish with the freshest local ingredients and want our service to reflect just how special each guest is to us."

Timberline's ambiance is part of its magic—a beautiful, wooded setting and nostalgic interior complete with white table linens. And then there's the food. Oh, the food!

We began with the **Escargot** appetizer, served bubbling in garlic herb butter alongside thin crostini topped with melted cheese and a side of freshly grated Parmesan. The snails were tender and rich, with a mild, almost mushroom-like flavor that soaked up the bold, fragrant butter—a luxurious start to the meal.

Next came the **Blackened Norwegian Salmon**. Expertly cooked and wonderfully moist, it carried the bold kick of Cajun seasoning, perfectly balanced by sweet, charred red onions on top. It's easily some of the best salmon I've had in recent memory.

Continued on page 16

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Timberline *from page 15*

"We fly our seafood in fresh," Matthew noted, "which keeps the natural oils that make seafood taste so good."

The **Seared Scallops** followed—plump, sweet, and delicately briny, with a golden caramelized crust that gave way to a tender, buttery center. A drizzle of lemon-dill butter brought brightness and elegance to the dish.

Then came the showstopper: **Steak and Lobster**. The filet was perfectly cooked—fork-tender with a buttery richness and refined beef flavor. The South

African lobster tail, firmer and slightly sweeter than its Maine cousin, was incredibly fresh and meaty, with a clean ocean flavor that made every bite feel like a celebration.

Of course, we saved room for dessert—and thank goodness we did. I'd heard whispers about Timberline's **Coconut Cream Pie**, and it more than lived up to the hype. With its flaky crust, smooth coconut custard, and toasted coconut topping, it struck the perfect balance of creamy, crunchy, sweet, and subtle. Simply outstanding.

A few extras to note: While not pictured, entrées come with your choice of two sides, and the bread service includes a house-made beer cheese spread that instantly reminded me of the kind my mom used to make—comforting and addictively good.

Timberline offers a fine dining experience in a relaxed, welcoming environment. In the summer months, a reservation is a smart move. For those who've never been, take this as your sign to go—it's worth the drive.

Shelly: Next time, I'm definitely going for the **Baked Shrimp DeJonghe**—it's calling my name!

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Sweet summertime is on the horizon in Southwest Michigan! The warm days of boating, beach trips, lake time, and soaking up the sun are just around the corner—and I can't wait!

Nothing pairs better with those golden summer moments than a crisp, refreshing beverage. And I'm so excited to share what's hitting the shelves near you!

Good Boy Vodka, a premium vodka brand, continues to roll out amazing products. Many of you have already fallen in love with their iconic G**ood Boy Vodka John Daly Cocktails** (my favorite is the Iced Tea Blackberry!), their crisp **Vodka Cocktails**, and the wildly popular limited-edition **Travis Pastrana Citrus Circus Cocktail**.

Sip, Savor & Support:

Now, they've done it again. Say hello to their brand-new **Good Boy Vodka Lemonade** varietals—crafted with real fruit juice, real vodka, and zero carbonation.

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Each flavor is bold, fruity, and incredibly refreshing. Plus, they're just 110 calories per can, gluten-free, and have a smooth 4.5% ABV.

But Good Boy Vodka isn't just about great taste—it's a purpose-driven lifestyle brand. As many of you know, their tagline is "Every Pour Helps a Pup," and a portion of proceeds supports animal charities, American veterans, and Warrior Dogs.

Now, with the launch of their Lemonades, they're taking it a step further—supporting women's causes, including breast cancer research and awareness,

Good Boy Vodka Lemonades Arrive Just in Time for Summer

through charitable events and product-driven donations.

Founder and CEO **Alex Pratt** shared, "With the launch of our new Lemonades, Good Boy Vodka is proud to support women's causes—including breast cancer research and awareness—through charitable events and product-driven donations."

Well done, Good Boy Vodka! These lemonades are already flying off the shelves. You're not just getting a premium, delicious beverage—you're supporting amazing causes with every sip.

As always, please enjoy responsibly.

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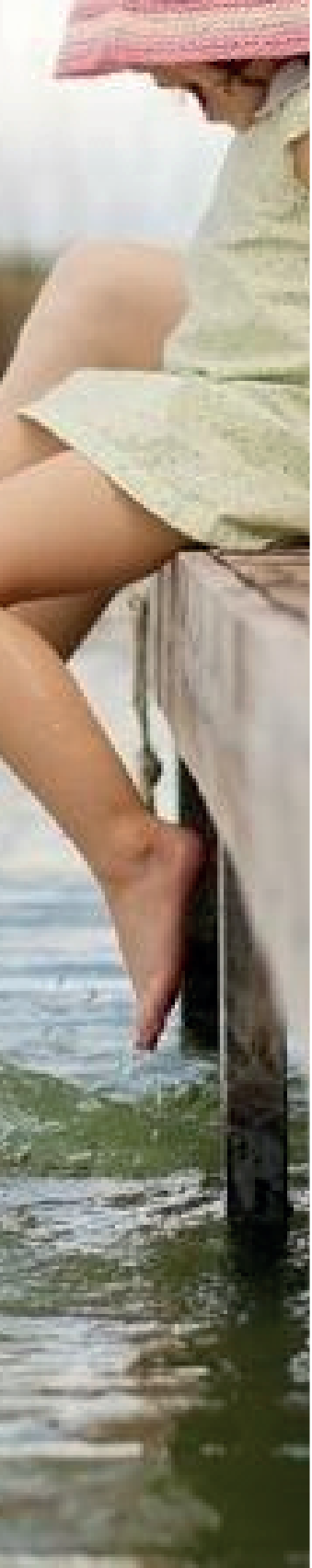

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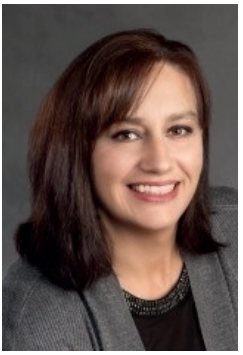

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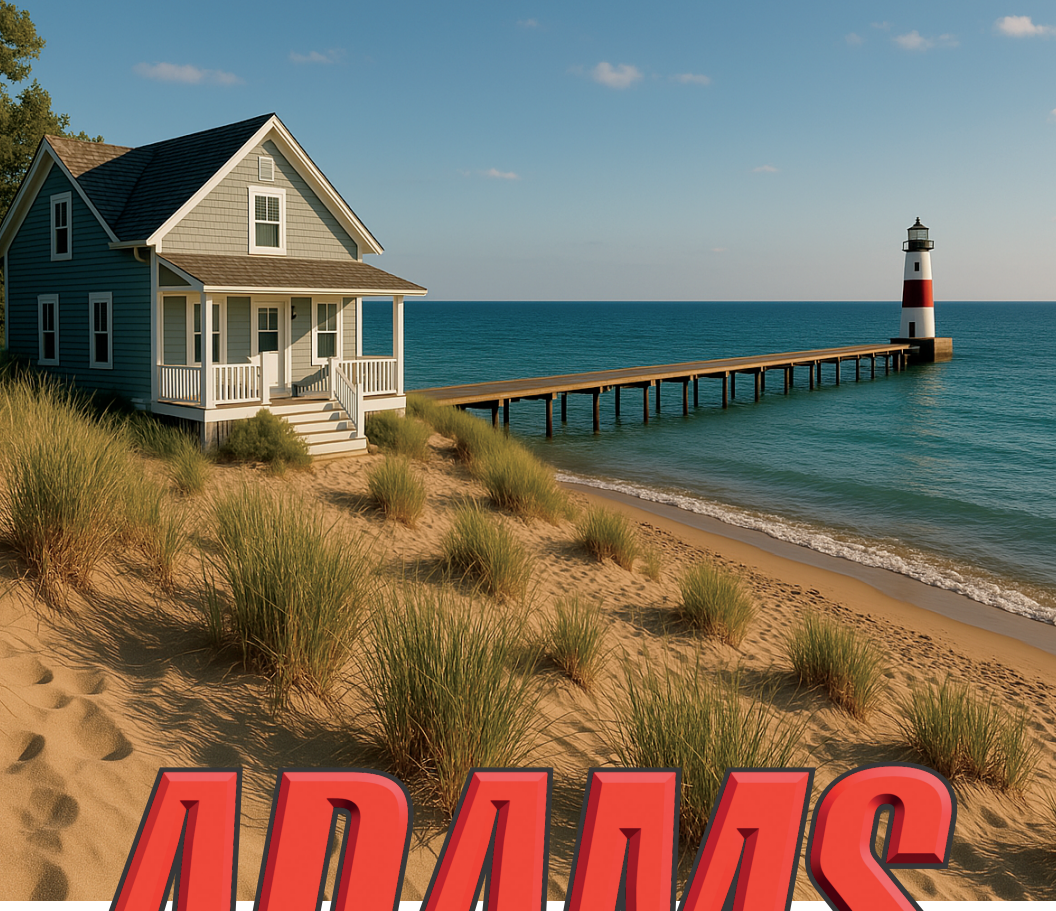

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Local Flavor: The Rise of Jake's Restaurant Group

In just two short years, **Jake and Brooke Arnold** have opened five successful restaurants across Southwest Michigan—a whirlwind journey that's as much about divine timing as it is about good food.

JAKE AND BROOKE ARNOLD

BROOKIE'S RIBBON CUTTING

Jake didn't set out to be a restaurateur. "I was working at Gordon Foods, where my dad has worked for 35 years," he says. "Food just kind of runs in the family." But when **Cranky Hank's** party store near Dowagiac went up for sale, opportunity knocked. "They had a great takeout menu, so I bought it, gave it a face-lift, and renamed it **Happy Jake's,"** he says.

Today, Happy Jake's is a lively hub for liquor, grub, and bait—a convenience store-meets-smokehouse that's become famous for its pizza and in-house smoked BBQ. "It's a one-stop shop," Jake laughs.

From there, things snowballed. **Amy's Diner** in Marcellus became **Wakey Jake's**, a cheerful breakfast-and-lunch joint that's earned over 100 five-star reviews online.

"Best breakfast in the area," Jake says proudly. "Great service, small-town vibes—people love it."

Then came **Arnie's Drive-In**, formerly **Lutz's Drive-In** at 5-Mile Corner north of Dowagiac. The Arnold's revived the retro roadside diner with seating for 65. "We

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WAKEY JAKES

HAPPY JAKES

brought back the classic car hop experience and added thin-crust pizza and smashburgers that people can't get enough of."

Brookie's Café in Dowagiac followed shortly after. A friend messaged Jake about a remodeled café and bar combo that was just sitting there, waiting for someone to make something of it. Jake wasn't planning on expansion just yet—but once again, the opportunity felt right. "It was another one of those things where it just kind of fell into my lap."

The most recent addition is Brookie's in St. Joseph, a stylish brunch spot with a lighter, more elevated menu featuring housemade soups and paninis. "It was a turnkey space, fully furnished, equipment ready—it was the smoothest opening we've had," Jake says. "I've always wanted to be in St. Joe. This felt like the big leagues."

So, what's next for Jake's Restaurant Group?

"Ultimately, I'm led by the Holy Spirit," Jake says plainly. "That's who guides me." But if the current path continues, we'll be seeing more Brookie's locations. "It's the most replicable and the most profitable," he notes. "So yeah—we're planning to grow it."

From takeout joints to inspired brunch cafés, Jake Arnold's restaurant empire isn't just about feeding people—it's about following a calling, seizing the moment, and serving up good food with a side of small-town soul.

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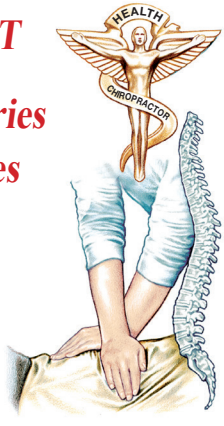

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Silver Beach Center: Where History & Memories Come Alive

The Silver Beach Center is where history and memory making go hand in hand. The building — located below the bluff in downtown St. Joseph at 333 Broad Street — is home to the Silver Beach Carousel, Shadowland on Silver Beach and Curious Kids' Discovery Zone. One of the best year-round entertainment destinations, the Silver Beach Center is fun for all ages.

SILVER BEACH CAROUSEL

Make a lifetime of memories at the Silver Beach Carousel! Pick your favorite figure to ride from 48 magnificent, hand-carved figures and two chariots. Your heart will soar as you spin beneath 1,000 twinkling lights. Learn about the area's fascinating history from the 18 rounding boards circling above the carousel. Explore the fun-filled days of the Silver Beach Amusement Park (1892 to 1971) with the memorabilia filling the carousel house and attached museum. Or, grab a bag of fresh popcorn or cotton candy from the refreshment stand and listen to the happiest music on earth.

SHADOWLAND ON SILVER BEACH

This beautiful reception and meeting facility is just steps away from Silver Beach. Shadowland on Silver Beach is the perfect location for destination beach weddings and receptions in Southwest Michigan. The venue accommodates everything from small intimate gatherings to large weddings of up to 275 guests, with plenty of offerings to delight your guests on your special day.

Continued on 30

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Silver Beach Center *Continued from 29*

CURIOUS KIDS' DISCOVERY ZONE

The Curious Kids' Discovery Zone entertains small children to fifth graders with its interactive climbing, water, tactile and traveling exhibits. It is a must-stop for exploratory fun. This space is geared for ages 1-10, but all are invited to come "play, learn, and be curious!" The kids will love the Lake Michigan Water Table, where they can sail handmade boats through the lake currents and lock system. Another favorite exhibit is the 25-foot Lighthouse Tower, encouraging little visitors to climb the wave steps to the top and gaze out the window to catch a peek of Lake Michigan. And check out Recollections, a wall-sized dance exhibit where light and color mimic your movements on the screen.

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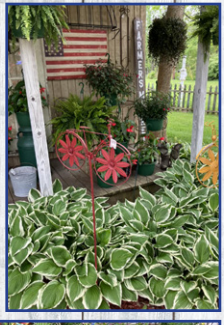

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Where Fresh & Fun Grow Together

Did you know the same Lake Michigan that invites you to swim in its sparkling waters is also the secret behind Southwest Michigan's incredible harvest? Thanks to the lake's climate-tempering magic, this region is home to one of the largest varieties of fruits and vegetables in the United States. It's no wonder so many of our farms have been in the same families for generations!

Today, dozens of these family-run farms invite you to explore their orchards and fields. Bring the kids and let them see where their food comes from—then pick the freshest, juiciest strawberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, grapes, and more to take home. Looking for pumpkins to carve or a perfect Christmas tree? You'll find those, too, along with memories to last a lifetime.

Create Unforgettable Moments on the Farm

A trip to Southwest Michigan farms is more than just a grocery run—it's an experience. Imagine riding a hay wagon out to the orchards, laughing through a corn maze, or enjoying a picnic under the trees. Watch cows being milked and treat yourself to fresh, creamy ice cream afterward. Play a round of outdoor games with Grandma and Grandpa, or wander a pumpkin patch in search of the perfect one.

Whether you're picking apples in the fall, searching for the most beautiful Christmas tree, or savoring the sweetness of summer berries, these farm adventures will quickly become a cherished tradition for your family.

Harvest time

Wondering when to visit for your farm-fresh favorites? Use the harvest availability chart (check the green bars!) to plan your trip. But remember, nature can be unpredictable—always call ahead to confirm your favorite fruits, veggies, or seasonal delights are ready for picking.

Continued on 32

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COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKETS

Continued from 31

Many local farmers bring their fresh produce, jams, cheeses, meats and baked goods to our weekly community markets. Before you come, check with your destination for updates.

BENTON HARBOR
Dwight P. Mitchell City Center Park,
184 E. Main St
mid-June to September
Wednesdays, 10am-3pm

BRIDGMAN
Open Air Market,
4509 Lake St
May to October Sundays, 9am-3pm

BUCHANAN
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122 Days Ave
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early July to early October
Sundays, 9am-2pm

ST. JOSEPH
Lake Bluff Park
May to October
Saturdays, 9am-2pm

SOUTH HAVEN
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June to August
Wednesdays, 8am-2pm mid-May to
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ASPARAGUS	■	■				
BEANS			■	■	■	
BEETS				■	■	■
BLACKBERRIES				■	■	
BLUEBERRIES				■	■	
BROCCOLI			■	■	■	■
BRUSSELS SPROUTS						■
CABBAGE			■	■	■	■
CANTALOUPE				■	■	
CARROTS			■	■	■	
CAULIFLOWER				■	■	■
CELERY			■	■	■	■
CHERRIES (SWEET)			■	■		
CHERRIES (TART)			■			
CHRISTMAS TREES						
CIDER					■	■
CORN (SWEET)				■		
CRANBERRIES						■
CUCUMBERS (PICKLING)				■	■	
CUCUMBERS (SALAD)		■	■	■	■	
EGGPLANT			■	■	■	■
FLOWERS (ANNUALS)	■	■				
FLOWERS (MUMS)					■	■
GRAPES						■
GREENS			■	■	■	■
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PEARS				■	■	
PEAS		■				
PEPPERS				■	■	■
PLUMS				■	■	
PLUOTS			■	■	■	
POTATOES				■	■	■
PUMPKINS					■	■
RADISHES	■	■	■	■	■	■
RASPBERRIES			■	■	■	
RHUBARB	■					
RUTABAGAS					■	■
SQUASH (SUMMER)		■	■	■		
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100 Years on the Green: Indian Lake Hills Turns a Century Old

If you're lucky enough to own a home or vacation near Indian Lake, chances are you've driven past—or maybe even teed off at—the beloved Indian Lake Hills Golf Course. And if you haven't yet? Well, there's no better time to get acquainted. In 2025, this scenic spot is celebrating 100 years of golf, growth, and good old-fashioned community spirit.

Let's rewind to 1925. The Steimle family carved out the first three holes of what would eventually become Indian Lake Hills Golf Course. Back then, it wasn't about championships or scorecards—it was simply a place where families could hang out, relax, and take a swing or two beneath the Michigan sky. Over time, with a little help from friends (and a lot of local love), the course blossomed into a full 27-hole facility.

Today, Indian Lake Hills offers three unique nine-hole experiences:

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- **East Course:** The original and the heart of it all. Lined with mature trees and rolling terrain, this course grew organically—expanded over the years by local hands who loved the game.
- **West Course**: Added in the 1960s by Oscar Kolberg, this beauty weaves through apple orchards and gives a nod to the area's agricultural roots.
- **North Course:** The newest addition was completed in 1992 by current owners, Steve and Lynn Miller. It's a creative blend of the old and new, with open fairways, tight approaches, ponds, and wooded charm.

Steve and Lynn purchased the property from Phillip Upp in 1981. As Lynn tells it, the Millers were "golf course hunting" with dreams of turning their passion into a profession. They cashed in a $15,000 life insurance policy, took a leap of faith, and made Indian Lake their home.

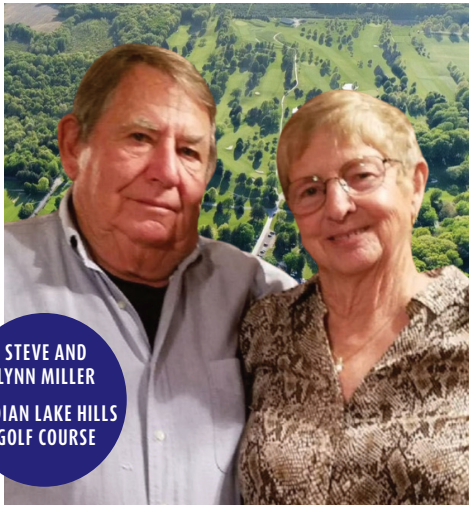
"We looked at several courses in the area that were for sale, but we just fell in love with this place," Lynn said. "Steve had his eye on the 80 acres across the street, and he dreamed of adding another nine holes. We made that happen in 1992—with a lot of help from the community."

Their daughter, Sue Miller Vanderburg, now manages the course, while her husband John keeps the grounds pristine. Sue and John's son, Andy, also works at the course, representing the 3rd generation of involvement. "We're the fourth family to own the course," Sue shared, "but so many of the previous owners left their stamp on it. Their relatives—and their friends' relatives—are still part of our golfing community today. Our family is privileged to be part of it."

Sue explained, "With our 27-holes, we are perfectly set up to host golf outings. There are so many fund raisers for important organizations that take place out here. It's just another way that golf here is about community."

And that community is really what makes Indian Lake Hills so special. Beyond the fairways and putting greens, there's a 20-acre driving range, peaceful lake views, and that unmistakable feeling that you're part of something that's been cherished for generations.

So whether you're a weekend warrior, a summer lake-goer, or just someone who enjoys a good walk with a purpose, Indian Lake Hills is worth a visit—or a return. After all, how often do you get the chance to play a course that's been growing right alongside your neighborhood for 100 years?



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Filkins Vineyard

Zach and Lindsay Filkins had their first experience with Michigan wine in 2019 at Karma Vista Vineyards. Following a OneRepublic performance in Grand Rapids the couple decided to take a detour and explore Michigan's wine country for the first time. Karma Vista was their very first stop.

They remembered sampling nearly every wine offered, skipping only the sweeter selections. As they moved from whites to reds, each wine made a strong impression. Joe Herman, who guided them through the tasting, provided detailed insights into the wine-making process. His passion and depth of knowledge left a lasting mark—it felt like listening to a captivating storyteller. His enthusiasm was contagious, pulling them into the spirit and soul of the winery.

Suzie Herman, another memorable part of the visit, shared her favorite wines while meticulously cleaning glasses, always with a warm smile. The care she had for the tasting room was evident in every detail of the beautifully maintained space.

By the end of their visit, they left with a half case of wine and a head full of new-found appreciation for Michigan wine-making. As they walked back to their car, both smiling, they exclaimed, "Wow, Michigan

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ZACK & LINDSEY FILKINS

FILKINS VINEYARDS

wine is good!" Karma Vista had become their entry point into the state's vibrant wine scene—and a truly special place to begin the journey.

Zach and Lindsay's love for food and wine goes back many years. Their time in the restaurant industry helped them develop a deep appreciation for wine and its connection to hospitality. As food and wine pairings became a rising trend in the dining world, the couple began hosting pairing dinners for friends—something they found came naturally thanks to their shared passion for entertaining and creating meaningful experiences.

Ever since their first visit to a winery during their honeymoon in California, they dreamed of one day owning a winery of their own—where family and friends could gather, celebrate, and connect. That dream came full circle when they took the torch from the Herman's, becoming the owners of the very winery that introduced them to Michigan's wine country.

For Zach and Lindsay, fostering connection is at the heart of it all. They are honored to carry on the legacy of Karma Vista, and they take great joy in providing a place where couples, families, and friends can come together, enjoy great wine, and make memories.

When planning your next wine tour, be sure to visit Filkins Vineyards at 6991 Ryno Rd, Coloma, MI, or explore their offerings online at filkinsvineyards.com. It's an experience you're sure to enjoy."

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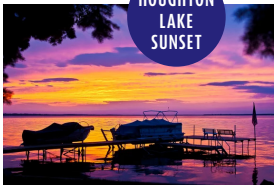
Michigan's Top 8 Inland Lakes:
Nature, Depth & Shoreline Beauty

Michigan is renowned for its Great Lakes, but the inland lakes offer their own stunning beauty, adventure, and charm. From the crystal depths of Torch Lake to the vast shallows of Houghton, here's a countdown of the state's 8 largest inland lakes, each with its own unique character.



1. HOUGHTON LAKE
Size: 20,044 acres
Depth: 20 feet
Shoreline: 30 miles
Michigan's largest inland lake is also one of its shallowest.
Popular for boating, fishing, and family getaways, Houghton Lake offers broad waters and a relaxed vibe year-round.

2. TORCH LAKE
Size: 18,770 acres
Depth: 285 feet
Shoreline: 40.8 miles
Torch Lake dazzles with its Caribbean-blue hues and holds the title of the deepest inland lake in Michigan. Ideal for paddling, pontooning, and catching sunsets that never quit.

3. LAKE CHARLEVOIX
Size: 17,260 acres
Depth: 122 feet
Shoreline: 56 miles
A boater's paradise, Lake Charlevoix invites you to explore its vast shoreline and picturesque towns. It's a favorite for both relaxation and adventure.

4. BURT LAKE
Size: 17,120 acres
Depth: 73 feet
Shoreline: 30.1 miles
Connected to Mullett Lake by the Inland Waterway, Burt Lake is beloved for fishing and clear waters. If paired with its neighbor, they'd form Michigan's largest lake.

5. MULLETT LAKE
Size: 16,630 acres
Depth: 148 feet
Shoreline: 31.5 miles
Deep, scenic, and full of Northern Michigan

Continued on page 40

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Michigan Big Lakes *from page 38*

charm, Mullett Lake is a tranquil haven for anglers and boaters alike.

6. LAKE GOGEBIC

Size: 13,380 acres
Depth: 35 feet
Shoreline: 34.4 miles

Tucked in the western Upper Peninsula, Lake Gogebic is a remote, wild beauty ideal for quiet getaways and epic fishing.

7. MANISTIQUE LAKE

Size: 10,130 acres
Depth: 20 feet
Shoreline: 26.5 mi

Located in the U.P., this shallow lake is a peaceful retreat for paddlers, with room to roam and scenery to spare.

8. BLACK LAKE

Size: 10,000+ acres
Depth: 50 feet
Shoreline: 18.7 miles

Shared by Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties, Black Lake boasts dark waters, excellent fishing, and a quiet northern vibe.

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Hale's True Value Est. 1958.

Our store has seen quite a few changes over these past 67 years. Going from a small 5,000sqft store in the same building we are in now to our current 20,000sqft space. As businesses closed and moved out of our building we purchased those spaces, knocked down the walls and remodeled the space. Remodeling our building and expanding over the years has allowed us to bring in products and services that might not be available in other stores, such as a large Gift department with every day gifts for men and women. We are a UPS shipper. We have an electronics department with cell phone accessories, bluetooth speakers, headphones and ear buds. We have a large paint department and custom match colors. We have a large Sporting Goods department with hand guns, rifles, e-bikes, so many hunting accessories, and an Archery Pro Shop with a Shooting Range and the experts to fine tune your skills.

True Value has been a great partner over many of those years, but now it's time to make another change - we are converting to ACE Hardware. This is a big move and we are excited to bring to our community some great brands that we have not had before....Craftsman, Benjamin Moore Paint, The Big Green EGG, Milwaukee. These products and more will be available with the conversion finishing up sometime in May 2025 with our new name.....Hale's Family Ace Hardware.

We will continue to offer services such as custom window screens, window screen and glass repair, mower blade sharpening, lopper, shears, knives and scissor sharpening, pipe cutting and threading, custom paint color matching, rekeying locks and automotive security key duplicating. It's been great to be a part of this community and we would like to thank YOU - Dowagiac and all the surrounding areas - for all the support over the years AND we will continue to support you as well!!

Have a Fantastic 2025 everyone!

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Hale's Hardware "Known for Values Since 1958"

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